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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 20 SEP 50

SUBJECT New Skoda Factory in Turciansky Svaty Martin for the Production of a New Automatic Rifle

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1. A new underground munitions factory of the Skoda Works has been built about 2,500 m. west of Turciansky Svaty Martin (Q50/C69). The garages and administrative offices connected to the factory are aboveground, while all production buildings are between 20 and 25 m. underground. The entire area is enclosed by barbed wire fences and guarded by more than 250 members of the factory militia.

2. This factory has been built especially for the production of a new type, model 49, automatic rifle and its ammunition. The total weight of the weapon, complete with two full magazines, is three kgs. Its overall length is 70 cm., muzzle velocity is 600 m/s, and accurate range is 150 m. The rifle has a calibre of 8 mm. The barrel is made of tungsten steel and the stock is bakelite. The two magazines are set at a slight angle from the horizontal and both are attached to the rifle. A safety device allows only one feeding aperture to be open at a time; when the first magazine is empty, a slide automatically covers the opening on that side and opens that of the second magazine. Both magazines are emptied in six seconds at a rate of fire of 12 rounds per second. Since no allowance has been made for changing the barrels, the chief problem encountered with this rifle is overheating.

3. The underground factory units include:

a. Steel mill which employs about 250 workers per shift.

b. Pressing mill which employs about 240 workers per shift.

c. Machine shop which employs 370 workers per shift.

d. Assembly plant which employs 600 workers per shift. Security regulations for this building are very strict; only those workers actually employed in the building are allowed to enter.

e. Cartridge case plant which employs 300 workers per shift.

f. Ammunition plant which employs 300 workers per shift.

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g. An engineering building somewhat nearer the surface than the production buildings.

All work is done in two shifts per day.

4. Raw materials are transported to the factory by truck from the Turciansky Svaty Martin railroad station. The completed rifles are received in the plant by Major Caplava, the representative of the Czech army general staff in the plant. The factory manager is Ing. Stanislav Kratky, representative of Skoda Works, Plzen, in the factory. The technical director is Ing. Dolezal and the engineer in charge of production of the automatic rifle is Ing. Medvedik. 50X1-HUM

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